2008 specific measures to support the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises under sector (MSME) including Pharmaceuticals MSME sector.

(c) In view of reply to part (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

New fertilizer policy

1282. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new fertilizer policy has come into force sometime in June, 2008;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the distinction thereof from the old policy;

(c) whether substantial additional subsidy liability has accrued consequent to the new policy, over and above estimated in the annual budget for 2008-09;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the rationale behind creating additional liability in the context of increased benefit it would accrue, if any, to marginal, small and medium farmers across the country; and

(f) the details of those who would be recipients of the largest share of the subsidy when disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. A policy for nutrient based pricing of fertilizers was announced in June, 2008.

(b) The Nutrient based pricing of fertilizers lays down the MRPs of subsidized fertilizers based on nutrient contents therein. The price of nutrients across all subsidized fertilizer products is same under the new policy as compared to old policy under which the price of nutrients in complex fertilizers was more than that in the straight fertilizers like Urea, DAP and MOP. Under the new policy the nutrient price in complexes has also been reduced to that prevailing in the straight fertilizers leading to reduction in the selling prices of the complex fertilizers.

(c) to (f) Yes, the new policy has led to additional subsidy liability due to reduction in the price of the complex fertilizers. The additional liability is expected to be around Rs. 1000 crore in 2008-09. However, the same will depend upon actual sale of complex fertilizers in the country.

The rationale behind the policy has been to encourage usage of complex fertilizers as compared to straight fertilizers so as to promote balanced fertilization. The benefit of the additional subsidy will accrue to the farmers who will be applying complex fertilizers in their fields.

Use of dangerous chemicals for making pesticides

†1283. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS SUSHILE TIRIYA:
Will the Minister of CHEMICAILS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether various companies engaged in manufacturing of pesticides are using dangerous chemicals;

(b) whether any investigation is made from time to time about the safety measures adopted in these companies by Government, so that a situation like Bhopal gas tragedy may not arise;

(c) whether a company in Faridabad near Delhi engaged in pesticide manufacturing is using dangerous chemicals without any licence and employees have given a memorandum to Assistant Director, Industrial Safety and Health and Chemicals in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Pesticides are used to control pests and insects and therefore, inherently hazardous. Since several hazardous chemicals are used in manufacturing of different kinds of pesticides, safety measures to be adopted are in-built in the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed there under. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is the Nodal Department for this Act. Registration with the Registration Committee, constituted under the Act is a pre-requisite for import or manufacture of insecticides (pesticides). The Registration Committee has prescribed minimum infrastructure facilities for the companies engaged in manufacture of insecticides. After registration, a license to manufacture insecticide has to be obtained from the Licensing Officer of the respective State where the insecticide is proposed to be manufactured. The Licensing Officer is required to inspect the manufacturing premises and ensure availability of minimum infrastructure facilities for manufacture of insecticides for which a manufacturer is obtaining the manufacturing license. Minimum infrastructure facilities include reasonable premises, requisite plant and machinery, protective clothing, equipment, including respiratory devices and other facilities for workers including first-aid measures as well as availability of antidotes. The manufacturers are also required to arrange suitable training in observing safety precautions and handling safety equipments provided to them. All the persons who are engaged in the work of handling, dealing or otherwise coming in contact with the insecticides during their manufacture or formulation are required to be periodically medically examined by a qualified doctor.

(c) and (d) There is no such report available with the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India which is the administrative Department for the Insecticides Act. Implementation of the Insecticides Act including the licensing, falls under the purview of the State Government.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

†1284. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any measures to reduce the burden of subsidy on fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy on fertilizers at present and the criteria being prescribed to effect a cut in it in future so that its burden does not fall on farmers also?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi